

1/Fu



Robert Greene Sterne  
Edward J. Kessler  
Jorge A. Goldstein  
David K.S. Cornwell  
Robert W. Esmond  
Tracy-Gene G. Durkin  
Michele A. Cimbalà  
Michael B. Ray  
Robert E. Sokohl  
Eric K. Steffe  
Michael Q. Lee  
Steven R. Ludwig  
John M. Covert  
Linda E. Alcorn  
Robert C. Millonig  
Lawrence B. Bugaisky  
Donald J. Featherstone  
Michael V. Messinger

Judith U. Kim  
Timothy J. Shea, Jr.  
Patrick E. Garrett  
Jeffrey T. Helvey  
Heidi L. Kraus  
Albert L. Ferro\*  
Donald R. Banowitz  
Peter A. Jackman  
Teresa U. Medler  
Jeffrey S. Weaver  
Kendrick P. Patterson  
Vincent L. Capuano  
Eldora Ellison Floyd  
Thomas C. Fiala  
Brian J. Del Buono  
Virgil Lee Beason  
Theodore A. Wood  
Elizabeth J. Haanes

Joseph S. Ostroff  
Frank R. Cottingham  
Christine M. Lhulier  
Rae Lynn P. Guest  
George S. Bardmesser  
Daniel A. Klein\*  
Jason D. Eisenberg  
Michael D. Specht  
Andrea J. Kamage  
Tracy L. Muller  
Jon E. Wright  
LuAnne M. DeSantis  
Ann E. Summerfield  
Aric W. Ledford\*  
Helene C. Carlson  
Timothy A. Doyle\*  
Gaby L. Longworth  
Lori A. Gordon\*

Nicole D. Dretar  
Ted J. Ebersole  
Jyoti C. Iyer\*  
Laura A. Vogel  
Michael J. Mancuso  
  
Registered Patent Agents\*  
Karen R. Markowicz  
Nancy J. Leith  
Matthew J. Dowd  
Aaron L. Schwartz  
Katrina Yujian Pei Quach  
Bryan L. Skelton  
Robert A. Schwartzman  
Teresa A. Colella  
Jeffrey S. Lundgren  
Victoria S. Rutherford  
Michelle K. Holoubek

Robert H. DeSelms  
Simon J. Elliott  
Julie A. Heider  
Mita Mukherjee  
Scott M. Woodhouse  
Michael G. Penn  
Christopher J. Walsh

Of Counsel  
Kenneth C. Bass III  
Evan R. Smith  
Marvin C. Guthrie

\* Admitted only in Maryland  
\* Admitted only in Virginia  
\* Practice Limited to Federal Agencies

December 8, 2004

**WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:**  
(202) 772-8628  
**INTERNET ADDRESS:**  
KENDRICK@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
**Art Unit 2667**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Application No. 09/783,404; Filed: February 15, 2001  
For: **Method, System And Computer Program Product**  
**For Scheduling Upstream Communications**  
Inventors: SALA *et al.*  
Our Ref: 1875.0440002

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111; and
2. One return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Kendrick P. Patterson  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 45,321

KPP/sjc  
Enclosures



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

SALA *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/783,404

Filed: February 15, 2001

For: **Method, System And Computer  
Program Product For Scheduling  
Upstream Communications**

Confirmation No.: 4785

Art Unit: 2667

Examiner: Hoang, Thai D.

Atty. Docket: 1875.0440002

**Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated September 8, 2004, (PTO Prosecution File Wrapper Paper No. 7), Applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks. This Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, amendments to the specification by presenting replacement paragraphs marked up to show changes made;
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
  - in ascending order;
  - with status identifiers; and
  - with markings in the currently amended claims; and
- (D) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent

abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.